

We welcomed the New Year at the Fairhope Casino where the town's citizenry gathered to meet and extend wishes for a happy year. It was the gathering of the clan and a wonderful opportunity to see many whom I would not have been able to see under other conditions. I was delighted and elated seeing all my former students grown into handsome men and beautiful young ladies. Many had embarked on the road of matrimony and were endowed with sweet children.

Fairhope, too, grew during the last four year. Many new business buildings cropped up, new streets were cut and outlying streets were paved, and in spite of it Fairhope still retains its charm and uniqueness — the only successful and constantly growing Single Tax city. The camellia-japonicas, jasmine, sweet olives and early azaleas, narcissus and dafodils, scented the air. People were watering their lawns. Lofty pines stood like sentinels over the neat and unpretentious residences. The live oaks portrayed an authority that comes with great and respectable age as the branches of their wide spreads were heavily bearded with the gray and haze-like Spanish moss. The broad leaves of the magnolia mirrored the sun's rays, and theyupons were heavy laden with red berries as if they were live embers kept burning by the gentle breeze which came blowing from the gulf and bay. Nature's floral glory was equalled by the night's splendor of a shining moon and shimmering stars. They were there to be seen without fear of getting eyes full of soot and cinders.

The days sped fast. I wanted to spend hours with my friends of old, but had to content with seeing them for brief fleeting moments. Everywhere I was received with sincere joy and as a dear member of the family. I dare not start mentioning names, for it would be like reading off the telephone book. I was happy finding them well and happy and they in turn rejoiced in my healthful condition. The Leslie Bonnells, my foster family of Fairhope, were in town during the holiday weekend. Camilla's (Mrs. Bonnell) name is engraved with precious stones deep in my heart with loving gratitude for all the sacrifice she had gone through during my critical period. Fairhope is also the town where VILTIS first made its appearance with the first issue prepared by Paul and Mrs. Cornelius Gaston (Margaret).

The unexpected shock was when I visited Springhill College and learned that one of my dearest friends, Fra George McHardy, S. J. (Jesuit) passed away two years ago on Dec. 16 due to heart failure. He was a saintly and a beloved soul and I was informed that his death was a shock to all and that his funeral was one of the largest, attended by many bishops, dignitaries of the church, students and ordinary folk. He was laid to rest on the campus grounds. My heart pained me greatly. I visited his grave and the chapel asking for his continued intercession even in the yonder world as he continually prayed for me upon this world at a period when all doctors condemned me to death.

With Howard Murrell and Ed Kaupas I ran down to the Bellingrath Gardens, the charm spot of the Deep South. But, let me warn you ... if you have seen the Bellingrath gardens during Azalea blossom time do not go there at any other time. Camellia-Japonicas, in all their breathtaking splendor and variety, simply can not hold up a candle to the gardens during Azalea time (February-March-April).

The days rushed by. Japonicas, fruit cake, kumquats, pecans were given by the Stuersels, Laraways, Burmeisters and Andrews — to take back something from the old home town. It broke my heart to leave the

wonderful weather of high 70ties. I knew that nothing good would await us (as far as weather was concerned) up North. Alas, my forebodings came to pass much too seriously. The weather turned sloppy about Selmer, Tenn. and from then on horrible Yankee weather was our bitter lot. Driving sleet, blinding winds, freezing of the windshields, dangerously slippery roads and wondering if we'd ever see the next morning. In Illinois, besides all of the above, we also ran into floods and ten above zero. Valgame Purisima!

Thus, another year passed. Tho there were some unpleasantnesses, and tho I am perpetually broke, it was, nevertheless, a happy year. During the Christmas season I received greetings in the hundreds and it came from many parts of the world. Everyone's friendship, which I enjoy, is my richness. May God through His eternal mercy bestow upon all of us His blessings and grace. As for myself, all I can say is: "Domine, non sum dignus ut intres sub tectum meum " (Lord I am not worthy thou shalt enter under my roof...)

Pasimatysim, Vyts-Fin

SQUARE DANCE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN

The Turner Jamboree was very successful and Green Bay, Kiel, Oshkosh, Two Rivers, Manitowoc, Brothertown, Plymouth, Sheboygan Falls, West Allis, Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, Fond du Lac, Madison, Marinette, Ripon, Cascade, and Roskford, Illinois. I think that includes most of the cities. There was dancing all afternoon and evening with about 300 people in attendance.

The SDAW meeting was called to order at 10:00 Sunday morning November 6. Herbert Henckel, preident of the Turner Club welcomed the visitors to Sheboygan. VicGraef, president of the SDAW introduced Father Edward Ziegler of Holy Name Church who lead us in prayer and said a few words to the group. Father Ziegler said square dancing is a wonderful hobby to have and if we can interest the teenagers in it we will make better citizens of them and help combat juvenile delinquency.

A moment of silence was observed by the group in memory of Mrs. Eileen Tesch. Mrs. Tesch, a square dance caller from Milwaukee was killed in a auto accident.

Last month Vic appoined Irenee Qually our Corresponding Sec. chairman of the 1950 Handbook Committee. The committee wants to have the Handbook ready for distribution by the January meeting. The following are on the committee: Earl Bickford Oshkosh; Lois Rogge and Frank Brown, Fond du Lac; John Gardner, Green Bay; Art Petri and Howard Bernard, Milwaukee; Hermine Sauthoff, Madison; and Roland Braun and Dolores Fuerst, Sheboygan.

The SDAW had booth 102 at the Hobby Show held in the Milwaukee Auditorium on November 24, 25, 26, and 27. Erich Sobota of Milwaukee chairman of the committee and they set up the booth which included a map of Wisconsin showing all the cities which have square dancing that we know of and other things which pertain to square dancing. The dancers were asked to hhelp by working for on 15 minute exhibitions.

Mrs. Myron Conger (Sally) our chaplin sent in her resignation because she will be unable to attend all the meetings. She suggested that Mrs. Fred Clark of Wauwatosa take her place. Martha Clark was appointed chaplin.

The meeting was then adjourned. Mel Schoeckert of

Wauwatosa, chairmain of the Callers Auxillary Committee, then called to order a meeting of all the square dance callers present. The SDAW is open only to groups or clubs not to single memberships and so in order to have callers without regular clubs become affiliated with the state organization it was decided to have a callers group.

The group discussed the by-laws proposed by the committee. The meeting was resumed after dinner. Father Wendal Betam of St. Peter Claver Church lead the group in prayer and also said a few words.

At 2:30 the dancing began. Miss Betty McGinness of Sheboygan acted as master of ceremonies and made sure that all the guest callers had a chance to call.

AMONG OUR FRIENDS . . .

AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT

Jimmy Graham recently returned from several years in Europe where he worked with the friends' Service Committee. On his way to Madison, Wis., he stopped off in Chicago with a carfull loaded of his wordly goods and a priceless collection of Catalan, French and Spanish folk material. During the night someone broke into the car and robbed him of all his clothes and accordion (tho Jimmy can ill afford to replace it, nevertheless, it is replaceable); and worst of all, they took his collection of Catalan Sardanas, Spanish Jotas, French and Latin American albums of records and books — objects that could not be replaced in this country. What a pity!

NADEL ATTENDED VENICE FOLK MEET

Eddy Nadel, folk dance leader of Boston and the New England area, was one of the extremely few fortunate Americans to attend the meeting of folk lorists from various parts of the world. Writes he:

"I just returned from Europe as you may have heard. Some friends sponsored the trip, since I couldn't have taken it myself (Aintha lucky—V), and it was a wonderful experience. I attended the Folk Congress and Festival of Folk Music and Dance held in Venice (Italy) and got to go to various parts of Italy and to Switzerland and France. Seeing people do the real dances was an inspiration. Unfortunately there was no Lithuanian group at the festival."

THE LEON PETERS

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Peters, from Jamestown, N. D., certainly had one of the busiest two weeks in many a year. They came down to see the town and they certainly did. On the way to Chicago they stopped off in some Wisconsin towns to visit relatives; in Milwaukee they picked up Loren, who is attending Marquette Univeristy, and the three of them gave Chicago the once over. Attended the "Welcome Traveler" broadcast at the College Inn, saw "Kiss Me Kate", went to South Bend to watch the Notre Dame—California game, saw the stock show and took in many tours. Thanksgiving Day was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Urbutis to feast on a plentiful Lithuanian turkey dinner. Besides the Urbutis family, present were also at that dinner Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Dulinsky and their children, Algis Urbutis, Vladimir Rudyn, and Vytautas Beliajus.

"SOCIETY NEWS"

During the Xmas-New Year Holiday season everybody went everywhere. Some returned to their homes for the holidays others went to visit folks. But many

traversed great spaces and areas. Among them, Eddy Nadel, folk dance leader from Boston spent a week in Berea, Ky., and a week in Chicago... Another visitor to Berea and Chicago was Mr. Fred Enholm from Denver, Colo., head Resident of the Steele Community Center. While in Chicago, Mr. Enholm and Mr. Nadel were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dunsing and Vyts Beliajus.

FOREIGN TRAVELERS

Miss Ruth Sigrid Nelson of Mobile, Alabama, spent six months in Sweden. Mr. Eugene Jablonski, secretary of the Polish Society in New York, made a flying trip to Venezuela, So. America.

BABIES

The Maine event took place in Lewistown, Maine, on November 29th, '49, when Dauglas Mardee Friend announced his arrival with some lusty yells, to his parents who have been expecting him for some time. He weighed exactly 2.90 grams (you figure it out). His parents are Russ and Esther Friend, who, while attending Chicago's Theological Seminary, belonged to the International House and French folk dance groups, and as Frenchmen attended the St. Louis NFF. For one year they lived in Stockton, Cal., where Russ attended the College of the Pacific. Best of luck.

WEDDING BELL

RUBY—BITTMAN

Two dancers of the Madelynn Greene Work Shop, Ruth L. Ruby and John M. Bittman, were married on Saturday, December 17th in Oakland, California. Their reception which was held at the Glenview Women's Club, was a regular folk festival. Most of the guest arrived in nationality costumes and folk dancing was the main fare of the evening. To Ruth and John our sincerest wishes for happy dancing together their whole long life.

Schneider-Parker

Washington State's noted folk dance leader, Mr. Almon F. Parker, married Miss Olive Virjean Schneider of Evanston, Ill., on Saturday, February 4th, 1950. The wedding took place in Evanston at the Hemenway Methodist Church. Mr. Parker is well known among the VILTIS readers and all extend their sincerest wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Parker for a most happy wedded life together.

CODOLENCE EXTENDED

Michael Shotas

Death due to cancer came to Mr. Michael Shotas on December 6th, at the age of 62. Mr. Shotas is the father of Bruno, one of the Ateitis organizers and its president for several years. The Ateitis group in body, attended the wake and extended their condolence to Bruno and his wife, Lucille. Interment took place on December 10th at the Lithuanian National Cemetery. Mr. Shotas is survived by another son, Vytautas, and his wife, Domicile, who remained in Lithuania.

Lea Jerson

On December 5th Mrs. Meyer (Lea) Jerson died suddenly in her home in St. Paul, Minn. She left behind her a loving husband and three children, Sydney and Celia in St. Paul, and Mrs. Sara Castle, in Chicago. Five brothers and four sisters with many other relatives remained behind to mourn her untimely passing. Interment took place in St. Paul, Minn.